

Deputy Assistant Director, ORR

3 October 1958

Chief, Geographic Research

ORA Contribution to the Semi-Annual Report to the Hull Committee

REFERENCE: Your Memo to Area and Staff Chiefs, 25 September 1958, subject:
Guide Outline for Preparation of ORR Contributions to the "Semi-Annual
Report to the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Economic and
Geographic Intelligence Activities"

I. Economic and Geographic Intelligence Production

B. Geographic

Continued emphasis was given to geographic analyses in support of intelligence on Soviet guided missile and nuclear energy activity. In anticipation of the possible development of a guided missile capability by Communist China, research was also devoted to the identification of possible test and training ranges in that country for various types of missiles. The production of related intelligence on Soviet programs in geodesy, cartography, and gravimetry has moved into a new phase in which a study is also made of the possible use by the Soviets of earth satellites for establishing intercontinental geodetic ties.

Geographic support of the inter-agency unconventional warfare planning program led to the completion of special feasibility studies covering most of the selected priority areas in the Sino-Soviet Bloc, South Asia, and the Near East. As a further development of this work, a trial unconventional warfare training study is being prepared for the use of the Army Special Forces at Fort Bragg.

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Surveillance of Soviet activities in Antarctica was stepped up in response to new Soviet programs of Antarctica exploration and research. Several analyses of the geographic implications of these programs were prepared for planners concerned with U. S. operations in the area.

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SUBJECT: GRA Contribution to the Semi-Annual Report to the Hull Committee

II. Major Intelligence Gaps

B. Geographic Intelligence

The lack of up-to-date large- or medium-scale topographic maps of the Sino-Soviet Bloc continues to be a critical intelligence gap. A significant, if limited, success was recently achieved in the collection of one sheet of a Soviet 1:1,000,000 series and twenty sheets of the East German 1:25,000 series.

III. Dissemination and Utilization of ORR Products

B. Geographic Intelligence

Continued geographic intelligence support on Antarctica and on Soviet developments in geodesy, gravimetry, and mapping was provided to the Operations Coordinating Board and the Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

A letter of appreciation was received from the Special Advisor on Geography, Department of State, commending the Agency on various maps and geographic reports which it has recently produced in support of the Department.

IV. Guidance to Collectors and Intelligence Collection Activities

The inter-agency program for the collection of Soviet topographic maps noted in our April 1958 report has been expanded to include all Soviet satellites. A representative of the Army Map Service has been detailed to work full time with CIA personnel on this effort. Guidance which provides coordinated statements of scale and area priorities for the Satellite countries is now under preparation [REDACTED]

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Major procurement of maps and geographic intelligence information continues to be made by Foreign Service Geographic Attaches. Recent Attache negotiations with mapping organizations in Poland and Yugoslavia are expected to produce a renewed flow of significant maps and geographic data from these countries.

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